

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED
 SECURITY INFORMATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT
 CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF INFORMATION 1722 - 1950

SUBJECT Economic - Coal

DATE DIST. 30 Oct 1953

HOW PUBLISHED Book

WHERE PUBLISHED Moscow

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE PUBLISHED 1950

LANGUAGE Russian

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Donbass v Poslevoyennoy Stalinskoy Pyatiletke (The Donbass in the Postwar Five-Year Plan), by E. G. Mindeli

BACKGROUND DATA ON THE DONBASS

The Donbass includes territory in Stalinskaya, Voroshilovgradskaya, and Rostovskaya oblasts, extending 300 kilometers from the northwest to the south-east and up to 180 kilometers in breadth. The total area of the old Donbass, within the limits of which bituminous coal deposits are being worked, is approximately 23,000 square kilometers. However, geological and surveying operations are being extended continuously in adjoining oblasts and it is now possible to speak of a "Greater Donbass", the territory of which stretches farther to the northwest and east, and which occupies an area $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the size of the old Donbass.

The Donbass was first known as a region rich in bituminous coal under Peter I. In 1722 the noted prospector, Grigoriy Kapustin, took the first lumps of bituminous coal from the region. In 1723, the mining of bituminous coal was organized for the first time in the city of Bakhmut (now Artemovsk). About 200 persons were employed in this enterprise, and the coal was supplied to forge shops and enterprises mining rock salt.

In the 1740's attempts were made to use Donbass coal for smelting metal. In the 1770's and 1780's Donbass coal acquired a new consumer, the Black Sea Fleet; it began to fulfill the requirements of the steamship companies of Azov, Taganrog, and Nikolayev. From the end of the 18th Century, the largest consumer of Donbass coal was the Luganskiy Metallurgical Plant.

However, the development of the coal industry of the Donbass was restricted before the 1870's by the absence of local sales markets, and the outflow of coal to the industrial regions of central Russia and the Urals was made difficult by the absence of suitable means of transportation. British coal, brought to Black Sea ports as ballast for ships, offered keen competition.

- 1 -

CLASSIFICATION

RESTRICTED

STATE	NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION						
ARMY	AIR	FBI							

RESTRICTED

STAT

The Crimean War 1853 - 1856 cut off plants in southern Russia from British coal, and this led to an increased demand for Donbass coal. At about the same time, Donbass coal appeared also in Baltic Sea ports.

In 1861, the Grushevsko-Donets railroad was built; in 1869 - 1870, the Kursk-Khar'kov-Azov; in 1871, the Kozlov-Voronezh-Rostov; in 1872, the Konstantinovka; in 1873, the Lozovo-Sevastopol'; in 1875, the Rostov-Vladikavkazskaya; in 1878 - 1879, the Donets. The construction of these railroads considerably increased coal sales markets, and the railroads themselves became large consumers of Donbass coal.

The maximum output of Donbass coal in the prerevolutionary period was 29 million tons in 1916. After the October Revolution, production dropped sharply and, by 1920, the Donbass area was in an extremely bad condition. About one fourth of all the mines were partially or completely flooded. More than one third of the underground workings were clogged up. The principal equipment had been removed or destroyed and technical buildings and installations had been demolished.

In 1916, there were 224,000 workers in the Donbass; in 1920, the number had been reduced to 116,000. The number of cutting and loading personnel dropped from 52,000 persons in 1916 to 16,000 in 1920. Labor productivity also declined. In 1916, the output of one miner was 10 tons per month but, in 1920, it had fallen to 3.2 tons. The coal output in 1920 was 4.5 million tons, less than one sixth of the 1916 output.

However, the Donbass made a rapid recovery. In 1927, its output equaled the prewar level and, in 1929, greatly exceeded it.

On 31 August 1935, Aleksey Stakhanov showed that it was possible for a miner to extract 10-14 times as much coal as he had previously. This was the beginning of the Stakhanovite movement, leading to a new rise in labor productivity in all branches of industry, transport, and agriculture.

During the first two five-year plans, the Donbass coal output rose from 24.5 million tons in 1927 to 75 million tons in 1937. In 1937, a huge army of miners, estimated at more than 300,000, worked at coal extraction alone.

As a result of the successful fulfillment of the prewar five-year plans, the general setup of the Donbass changed. Mines with a productivity of between 300,000 and one million tons per year made up 38 per cent of the total number of mines and accounted for 55 per cent of the total coal output of the basin. Mines with a productive capacity of more than one million tons per year made up 6 per cent of the total number of mines and accounted for 17 per cent of the total output.

In 1940, Donbass mines possessed about 600 hoisting installations having an aggregate power of 116,000 kilowatts; 600 main ventilation installations with a productivity of 15,500 cubic meters of air per second; 2,600 main drainage pumping installations with a capacity of about 280,000 cubic meters per hour; 400 main compressor installations with a productivity of 11,000 cubic meters per minute; about 3,000 cutting machines; approximately 1,500 electric locomotives; 1,500 scraper and other type winches; more than 5,000 conveyer drives; about 1,200 conveyers; more than 120,000 mine cars; and many other devices. The total number of electric motors was about 27,000 units with a capacity exceeding 820,000 kilowatts.

During the five-year plans, 13 coal-cleaning plants and a number of briquetting plants were constructed in the Donbass.

- 2 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

STAT

After the Donbass had been freed of Germans in World War II, coal production rose steadily. By 25 September 1943, the output was 10,000 tons per day and, after 3 months more, it had risen to 35,000 tons per day.

The total amount of water that had to be pumped from inundated mines of the Donbass was more than 600 million cubic meters, that is, six times as much as had to be pumped from inundated mines of France after World War I. Such an amount of water could form a section of the Volga River extending from Gor'kiy to Astrakhan'.

By 1944, restoration operations had been carried out in 220 mines of 324 that had been destroyed and put out of operation by the Germans. These mines were restored on a new, completely modern technical basis with an increase in their capacity. The Fourth Five-Year Plan provided that, by 1950, not only should the Donbass be completely restored but the coal output should exceed the prewar level. To this end, mines of a different type were constructed simultaneously with restoration operations.

The construction of a mine includes the sinking of the shaft and the cutting of rooms and of horizontal and sloping workings of great length. In the case of coking coals, the shaft frequently reaches a depth of 700-900 meters.

The most laborious process in mine construction is shaft sinking. Use of the BCH pneumatic loader has stepped up the speed of shaft sinking two- to three-fold. Arrangement for dependable drainage is an important condition of speedy shaft sinking. In the Donbass, special suspension pumps designed by coal machine building plants have solved this problem to a considerable degree.

The introduction of automatic control of machines and mechanisms has led to the achievement of high indexes in coal mining; for example, in 1949 the Zapadnaya-Kapital'naya Mine had a coal output double that of its prewar level and, at the same time, mechanization introduced that year made it possible to free 200 underground workers. All-around mechanization has enabled a large number of Donbass mines to exceed their prewar levels for coal output and to increase labor productivity: for example, Mine No 2/7 Lidiyevka has exceeded its prewar level 20 percent, and Mine No 27 Snezhnyanantsit, 70 percent.

Working conditions have greatly improved. Miners are transported to their place of work in special mine cars. Powerful ventilation installations not only assure dependable ventilation of the mine workings but also maintain the necessary temperature at a considerable depth.

- E N D -

STAT

- 3 -

RESTRICTED